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THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 1913.

THE HOUSE OF GOVERNORS.

"The Mother of States and Statesmen" has never been unrepresented at a Governor's conference and never should be. It is no easy journey to Colorado Springs, but we are glad that Governor Mann has gone there as the envoy of Virginia in the council of States. In movements for the common welfare of all the sovereigns that form the nation, the Old Dominion has always taken no mean part. The obligation of maintaining that leadership yet rests upon her. In her great sister Commonwealth of Massachusetts Governor Foss is being severely taken to task by eminent critics for his failure to attend the Colorado Springs meeting.

The pending conference is the sixth since Theodore Roosevelt called the Governors together at the White House to consider the question of conservation. Since that time "The House of Governors" has so increased in importance and service that it is believed to be a permanent part of the American political system. The design of the founders was the unification of national sentiment upon great public questions through the unification of gubernatorial sentiment. Through the State chief executives, whose messages to their Legislatures have generally reflected ideas derived from those annual conferences, State sentiment has been substantially broadened. The organization is a potent factor in the movement for uniformity of State laws. Moreover, it focuses public attention upon the new political principles which are deemed essential to more efficient State government.

The program for the conference at Colorado Springs is important. The subjects for discussion vary widely from those considered at the Richmond session last November. The committee of nine Governors then appointed will report the bill which they have prepared upon the subject of rural credits, land mortgage societies and co-operative buying and selling associations. The bill, if approved by two-thirds of the executives, will be submitted by each Governor to the Legislature in his State. United effort to secure uniform legislation upon rural credits seems likely. The other principal topics for debate are distrust of State Legislatures, the growth of administrative commissions, a State department of efficiency and economy, State assumption of nomination and election expenses.

The Governor's conference has not exerted the influence upon State and national progress that it might have exerted, but it is slowly gaining in power and service. It is now little more than a clearing-house for the exchange of new ideas in government. The ideal of the inventors of "the third house" is far from realization, yet it is not unattainable.

"BASKET PICNICS."

Down at Tappahannock the other day the good people of Essex had an old-fashioned "basket picnic" and Confederate reunion, and in so doing gave the Tidewater Democrat opportunity of saying some very fine things about these gatherings of the people.

We are quite of your opinion, Brother Democrat, but how few are the neighborhoods like yours where the people still know what a real basket picnic is. Why, in the cities people think they are having a picnic when a handful of them go to some park on the street car and frolic for half a day. To tell the simple truth, their little outings are no more like a real picnic than a side of Western meat is like Virginia bacon.

In the good old days, when the neighborhood had a basket picnic and a reunion, there was excitement from day-break till long after dark. There was the bustle of getting ready, of hitching up, of seeing that the basket was where it could not fall out of loading the whole family into the surrey and wagon and then of getting out in the big road where the dust was thick and all the vehicles were moving in one direction.

And once on the grounds, where was the man who could not be happy? Under the arbor which the boys had built overnight the veterans would gather and listen to some politician who stirred their blood and incidentally won their votes by his fervid eloquence. In the woods the youngsters would talk with the girls—girls never looked so pretty as at a basket picnic—and down by the hitching-posts the farmers would talk of crops and check tobacco and trade horses. There would always be a fine dog fight, a horse would run away, somebody's dinner would be lost, one of the boys would almost drown in the "swimming hole"—oh, there was joy enough for all.

But it was the dinner that put everybody in good humor—such a dinner that the mouth waters to think of it and the pen refuses to attempt a description. Where was there ever such good old ham, such prime cold roast, such mutton, such pies, such chicken? No man could attend a basket picnic and honorably fail to have digestion for a week.

Basket picnics? Brother Democrat, they used to be the finest days of the summer, not even herring camp-meeting and court day!

ROPE FOR THE CALF.

Give the calf rope enough and he will hang himself; give Huerta time enough and he will work his own overthrow. Such, in brief, is the substance of the message read yesterday to Congress by President Wilson.

It was a good message—sane, conservative, constructive and written in a vein of sincerity calculated alike to throw cold water on the passion of American jingoism and to make Huerta pause and think again. Mysteries which have baffled the public are revealed and explained in the President's message; the content of Lind's instructions is given out for the first time; the reason of Huerta's stubborn diplomacy is made plain; the attitude of the administration is outlined with a clarity that leaves no room for misunderstanding.

Mr. Lind, it appears, went to Mexico to tell General Huerta in comely but convincing phrases that war must stop; that an honest election must be held, and that in such an election Huerta must not be a candidate. In other words, Mr. Lind was to tell Huerta that America would have none of him, and that he need not expect help until he eliminated himself and allowed his country to speak.

The curious developments which followed Mr. Lind's conference are now intelligible. Receiving this ultimatum—it was little else—Huerta had no alternative except to reject it. As we pointed out when it seemed that he was to give Mr. Lind his passports, Huerta had everything to lose and nothing to gain by accepting our terms. Compliance meant self-immolation—a quality of which this man is incapable; resistance could not mean worse.

Mr. Wilson, of course, anticipated this. In fact, from his message, it seems that Lind's much-advertised mission was intended primarily to attract the attention of the world to the Mexican situation in order that America's position might be fully understood. Mr. Wilson makes it plain that this country has fulfilled its obligations as the recognized guardian of Mexico, and will now let Huerta fall as fast and as far as he will. Americans are cautioned to leave the country, and for the protection of those who remain Mr. Wilson warns Huerta and the rebels that he will hold them alike accountable. No arms are to be sent from America; no assistance is to be given; the rebels are to be allowed to overthrow the assassin of Madero as quickly as they will.

To our mind this is the proper policy for the United States to pursue, and is the policy best calculated to bring a speedy and a lasting settlement. Assured of the co-operation of the great powers, we can stand by and watch the unhappy Mexicans gain peace by the sword. Once the end comes, our government will be ready to assist Mexico in reforming its government and in re-establishing prosperity.

We can but reflect, in reviewing this admirable diplomacy, how much different the present situation would be had the President acted hastily. We might ere this have been involved in a war from which there would be neither escape nor gain, and we might have been pouring out American blood to unseat the usurper.

GOOD FOR THE COMMISSION.

The people of Virginia will appreciate the prompt action of the State Corporation Commission to-day in sending Judge Ithen, of the commission, with expert assistants, to investigate the condition of the road where occurred the sad wreck of Tuesday.

In thus dispatching one of its members to make a first-hand investigation of the roadbed and track where the train was derailed, the commission has given new evidence of its desire to fulfill the functions of its creation, and to protect the welfare of the traveling public.

Such action is, however, as necessary for the railroad as for the information of the commission, since a great corporation like the railroad involved is as anxious as public officers can be to ascertain the cause of every mishap, in order that precautions may be taken for the future.

We trust and believe that the accident will be found due to conditions over which the railroad has no control, and that it was not in any sense due to neglect of the roadbed. In any event, however, we are fortunate in having State officers who will be on the scene without delay and will establish the facts.

Where is the old-fashioned grandmother, who has in a corner of her garden a little bed dedicated to medicinal and aromatic herbs, bitter orange, rosemary, wild marjoram, lavender, thyme, sage, mallows, camomile, salvia, hyssop, pennyroyal, henniban, bitter pomegranate, butchers' broom, gentian and all the other pungent and fragrant plants of old-time?

Granddaughter is pleasant enough to talk to and dance with, but when it comes to wedding, Lord, how we wish grandmother was a girl again!

O uplift, how much self-advertisement is done in this name!

Even Uncle Sam is given to the telling of fish stories, for in a late number of the Daily Consular and Trade Reports he details a yarn about the "record catch of swordfish."

It remains to be proved whether Harry Thaw is still crazy about Evelyn.

Political note. Daily Consular and Trade Reports: "Consul William P. Kent, at Newchwang, China, expects to arrive in the United States August 22, on leave of absence for sixty days. His address will be Staunton, Va."

A Chicago theatre manager heard that a French play booked for his house was unfit for presentation. Did he cash this boast and rake in the shekels? No, he canceled the engagement and closed the theatre. A rare bird, this.

A GREAT HOSPITAL.

The Times-Dispatch trusts that the subcommittee to whom has been referred the various proposals for a city hospital will remember the splendid possibilities for such a hospital as outlined by Dr. George Ben Johnston last night.

That we need such a hospital all are agreed, and that sooner or later we must build it all recognize; but what such a hospital will mean to the city and to the cause of medical education has never been as fully presented as in Dr. Johnston's speech. Frankly and wisely pointing out the advantages which will accrue by making official what is now a tacit agreement between Richmond and the Medical College of Virginia, Dr. Johnston showed that such a hospital would be worth all that the city paid for it.

In expressing our hearty accord, we wish to remind our readers that we Richmond people can have few better assets than to become a great medical centre. If we add to the large number of private and institutional hospitals, one controlled directly by the city, we will enlarge our facilities and make possible a higher standard of clinical work. As our fame spreads, we may expect patients to come to Richmond as to the home of great surgeons, and we may anticipate a day when Richmond will be mentioned along with Baltimore, New York and Rochester in the clinic reports of America. And in addition to this—above all this—with the building of a new hospital will come an end to the treatment of honest workmen as paupers!

The Council, of course, will properly proceed with caution, will pick the site best suited, and will do nothing until its committee has advised with the authorities of the Medical College and with the Administrative Board. But if from their labors will come a real city hospital, at a proper location and affiliation with the medical school, their good judgment and humane action will gratefully be remembered by the people.

DRESS AND DECENCY.

Women who will not regard the judgment of a poor journalist in matters of apparel will respect, if they do not approve, the opinions of Edward Bok on decency and dress, as expressed in the current issue of Collier's Weekly, for Mr. Bok, our readers will remember, is an authority on such things, and when he speaks, even the New York modistes give heed.

This time Mr. Bok is speaking in a very positive fashion. He is mad, and writes like it. Surveying feminine fashion, he has concluded, as have thousands of us, that some of the modes are indecent, rankly indecent. He has discovered, too, the origin of these radical costumes, and does not hesitate to tell the facts. He says of Parisian fashions:

Each year the tendency to lower the standards has become more strongly marked. It must be said to the credit of the French that some of these "styles" are neither indecent nor worn by her. She seems then with contempt. They are the creations of the disordered minds of French dress-makers, who have lost all sense of art and decency, have become pure commercialists, and who, laughing in their sleeves at the American women, are, as one of the greatest of them recently said, seeing how far they can go in making—of the French woman of the slightest refinement wears these "styles"; they are the hallmark of the women of the French underworld, that frequent the Paris boulevards and the French race courses. As Mme. Sarah Bernhardt said upon her last visit to America, it was a perfect amazement to her to see apparently decent American women dressed like the demimonde of Paris.

This is very plain talk, so plain, in truth, that we should hesitate to print it except as the opinion of an authority; but that it is a true indictment a thousand French visitors will attest. All are of one opinion and are frankly amazed that the splendid womanhood of this country should yet itself be hoodwinked to indecency by designing costurers.

Mr. Bok offers as a remedy for the present disgraceful fashions a vogue of American styles designed for American women. Upon this point we do not presume to criticize him. Yet, whether they be of our own creation or not, new styles of women's dress must be forthcoming for the maintenance of American decency and American morals.

The Kaiser, on the twenty-fifth anniversary of his accession to the throne, made Governor Cole Blease, of South Carolina, look like a piker by pardoning 24,000 persons.

If you start to get mad at "Central," just remember that a member of Parliament says that the English telephone system is fifty years behind that of the United States.

"What is the proper thing for a man to do when a beautiful young lady comes into his office to make an inquiry just after he has put a big gumdrop in his mouth?" The Boston Globe would like to know. If it's the sort Doc Cook took with him "ong roof" to the North Pole, the only thing he can do is to hold his hand over his nose.

The light of the lantern of the modern Diogenes fell beneficently upon former Police Captain Thomas Walsh, of New York, whose estate has just been declared to amount to \$19,322.

The United States has plenty of troubles of its own, but Cousin Sylvia Bankhurst announces that she is coming to make us a long visit.

Uncle Ike Stephenson, Senator from Wisconsin, says that he will not seek reelection. Perhaps he does not want to spend another \$107,000 for his seat.

The Governor of North Carolina is playing golf daily. If a match could be arranged between him and the bellicose Governor of South Carolina, the latter could say to the Governor of North Carolina, "It's a long time between links."

Everybody's on the watermelon wagon now.

ON THE SPUR OF THE MOMENT

By ROY K. MOULTON.

According to Uncle Abner, Summer girls this year are clothed in the climate and not much else. The less clothes a woman wears the more she seems to cost. There may be many methods of saving money, but the only real way to save money is not to spend it. One of the drawbacks to enjoying a pleasant summer is the knowledge that a lot of gallons of water are being poured on the newspapers, but the only real way to save money is not to spend it.

Muzzles, Please. The authorities in various cities are warning dog owners that this dog days have come and that they must muzzle the animals. It might be well to suggest that the muzzles be made of the not the only ones who should be muzzled. We advocate muzzles for the following:

Musical soup eaters in cafes. Jingoists who predict war with Japan and Mexico. Coon shouters in vaudeville. All slide trombone players. Fishing lars. Ice cream coners. Street car platform pipe smokers. Summer resort serenaders. Street corner mudlickers. Vest gentlemen who relate funny things done by their children. Fathers who are continually offering advice. Gossips.

A Fable Not by Aesop.

Once upon a Time there came from the Tall Uncut an emerald Stranger with the rural Dew dropping from his shallop. He was a good thing from away down the Corduroy, where the Hollyhocks bloom and the Sweet Voiced children gather the mist at Fluid from the dripping caves of the patient red plush cow. He met three City Gentlemen in front of the brass rail and with One Foot on the brass rail he joined them for some time in celebrating the Declaration of Independence. It cost him Nothing, and he came up to the Hook like a Brook Trout after a red hannel fly.

Along toward the Shank of the Evening one of the three City Gentlemen, noticing a Protuberance in the region of the Stranger's Evening on pocket, suggested a Little Two Bit limit to drive Dull Care away. The Good Thing was simply suffering from an aggravated Bank Roll, as the City Gentlemen supposed, but he didn't mind the matter. He said for the Pipe it off and Fell for the Francium.

At About Nine Bells the Good Thing and eight piles of the patriotically colored Celluloid Tablets in front of him and held Jacks or Better every time he scrambled the Pasteboards. Every time he tried the lift of John Kettle for Two Beans the City Gentlemen suffered, paroxysms of the Highbrow and Frigidity of the Extremities. At Twelve Bells the Good Thing pulled Three Typewriters and a pair of Hairs of Iron from strong as a Film show. It was an Old Trick his Grandfather had taught him during the Long Winter Evenings on the Farm and it garnered in three pairs of trousers, three shirts and three hats. He then tried the lift of John Kettle for Two Beans the City Gentlemen suffered, paroxysms of the Highbrow and Frigidity of the Extremities. At Twelve Bells the Good Thing pulled Three Typewriters and a pair of Hairs of Iron from strong as a Film show. It was an Old Trick his Grandfather had taught him during the Long Winter Evenings on the Farm and it garnered in three pairs of trousers, three shirts and three hats.

Moral—It is possible to get Too Much of a Good Thing.

Voice of the People

Change the Law of Assessment. To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir.—The late exhibit of how the revenues of the State are expended—the major portion of the county drawing more from the treasury than they pay in, together with the recognized inequality of assessments, real and personal—is arousing the people to the necessity for some change in our system.

Auditor Moore deserves a vote of thanks for the exhibit he makes and for his suggestions looking to segregation of State and county revenues. It is clear, however, in looking over the list at the number of counties and cities adversely affected, that such a measure would stand a slim chance of becoming a law. All recognize the importance and justice of equal assessments, but this we will never have. Then let us try to improve upon the present system. To this end I beg to call attention to a bill introduced by myself in session 1908 and which the Finance Committee agreed had real merit, but feared to adopt, as it provided a radical change in our system of assessments. I again call attention to this, so that the members of the next session may give some thought to it.

Require the commissioner of the revenue, after giving due notice of time and place, to hold at least two sittings in each township or ward in cities. Associate with him two citizens to be appointed by the board of supervisors or council in cities, who shall constitute the assessing board for that township or ward. Require, under penalty, every person subject to assessment to appear and render his assessment.

FLIES!

Horne manure is the principal hatching place for flies.

It can be made sterile with coal oil, carbolic acid, copperas water or dry lye, by mixing thoroughly.

Horsemen, stablemen, owners of horses and sanitary inspectors, pay attention! Cut this out.

Let 1913 be a flyless year.

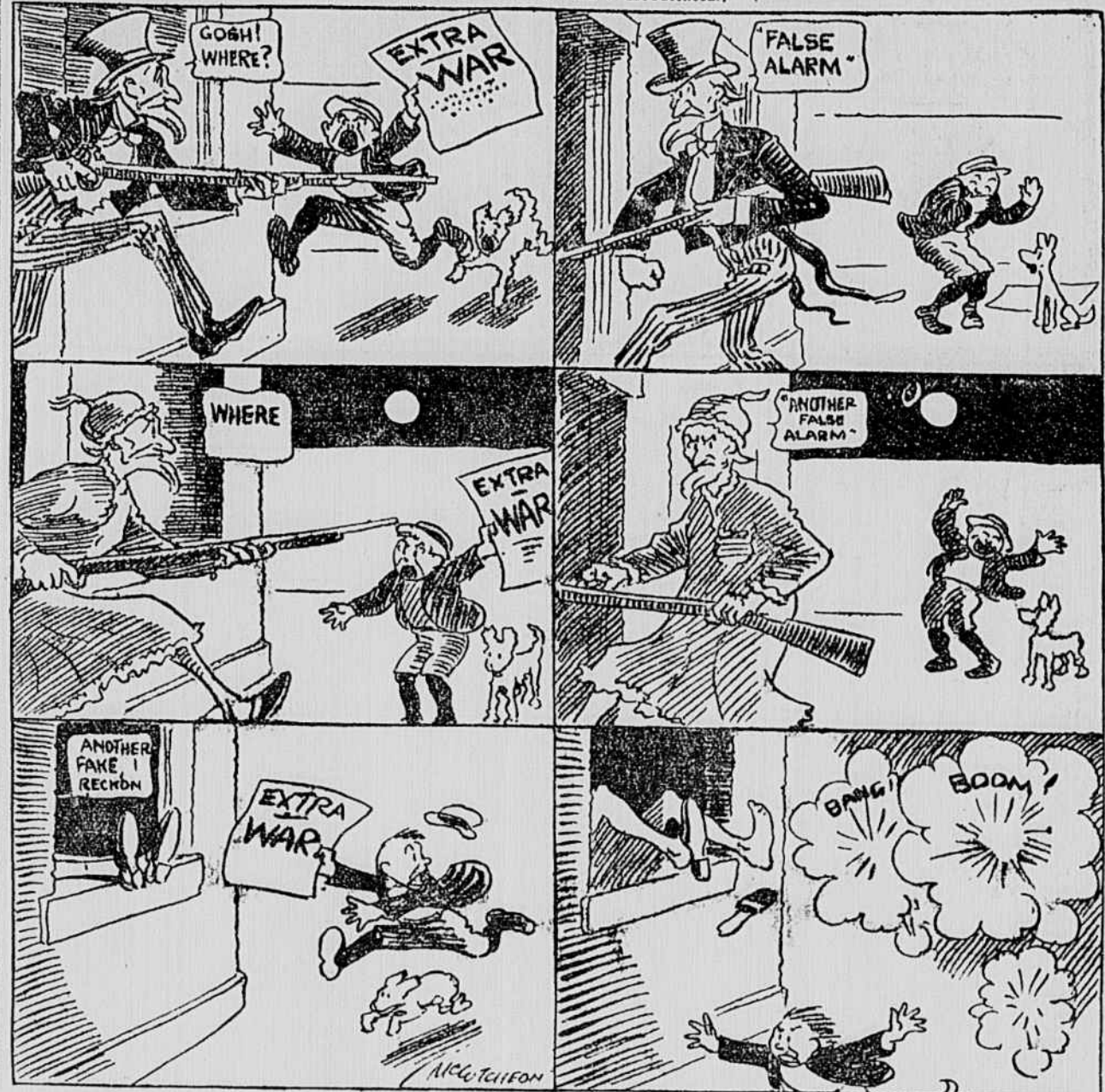
Abe Martin

Any place where a woman kin be womanly is a woman's place and that is where a woman should be. A woman is mightier than 'th' sword.

THE CRY OF "WOLF."

By John T. McCutcheon.

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statement. Not a stranger, as the commissioner oftentimes is, but a board, two of whom are his neighbors, well acquainted with his surroundings, and the character of his stock. The board should be careful to explain every item contained in the interrogatories. Let this same board, at the same time, and once in five years, assess the real estate (save mineral properties). It is well known that the hands throughout the State are not equal value. Then, if constitutional, let the General Assembly fix a minimum and a maximum value upon all lands by congressional districts, no lands to be assessed below the minimum, nor above the maximum.

Require these boards to meet yearly at the county seat for conferences with the attorneys for the Commonwealth, who shall explain the law and urge uniformity in each district. Under this system we would dispense with services of land assessors, and so lessen the duties of the commissioner of revenue, as to justify cutting his compensation sufficient to pay cost of local boards.

I have not the figures at hand showing total of real and personal property in the State, but I venture the opinion that the change herein suggested will add from 10 to 15 per cent to taxable values. If I am correct, then this plan deserves thought.

S. P. READ.
Palmer Springs, Mecklenburg Co.

New Legislators and Legislation.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir.—Much has been written about the large number of new members who will be in the next House of Delegates. It may be unfortunate, but the people of Virginia have spoken, and we must accept the result.

In reading so much about Virginia being so unfortunate as to have so many new members, I am prompted to write my observations about new members coming to the Legislature since 1869.

In 1869, on July 6, a full Senate and House were elected, and my recollection is that only one Democratic member of the House had ever been a member of the House, and we elected him Speaker. I don't recall how many Senators had ever been in the General Assembly before, but not more than two. We met in Richmond in October, 1869, and organized; we elected two United States Senators and representatives of the fourteenth and fifteenth amendments to the United States Constitution. These things had to be done to get back in the Union. We remained in session from October 5 to October 18, and adjourned over, to be called together by the authorities in Washington. On February 8, 1870, we reassembled by permission of United States authorities, and commenced legislating with the Underwood Constitution, expurgated, as our guide. Of the 125 members of the House, there were about forty-five carpet-baggers, scalawags and negroes. I think of the latter there were about thirty. With this minority to fight, led by an able lawyer and a good parliamentarian, is what we had to contend with in legislating.

What was done by that General Assembly is known full well, and I think I may be pardoned by feeling a little proud of our work.

All new members then and every session since, there have been quite a large number of new members, and not only two sessions in this time, but Democratic—one Readjusters and one Republican—and I think, as far as legislation is concerned, Virginia compares favorably with any other State. Our prosperity and growth have been wonderful. Compare Virginia in 1869-70 with Virginia in 1913, and we all, with one accord, give the credit to the patriotism and conservatism and good work of our people—the best in the world.

We new members will try and do what is best, and with the old members and the new members working together in harmony, I hope legislation will be satisfactory. We have had quite a number of new members every session since 1869, and questions of moment, gravity and importance have been settled, such as State debt, compromising with our creditors, railroad legislation, agricultural problems and many others. Questions of the greatest interest to Virginia will have to be considered by the next General Assembly, and these questions have many sides as there are members. Yet, I believe we will work out these problems, and, rather than have more

frictions, more factions, more dissensions in our party, we will be more united, and not let the days of 1861-2 come back in Virginia.

Why not? Old members and new members, in the future as in the past, I believe will work in harmony, not thinking about old or new. We have had ten speakers since 1869—forty-four years—and one would be very much surprised and edified by reading over the names of Senate and House in this same period, and see where our best men have participated in legislation.

Let the press in Virginia cease moaning over so many old members being absent, and so many new members coming in their stead. Accept the inevitable, and hope for the best. You mark, the old and the new will work all right.

J. N. STUBBS.
Woods Cross Roads.

Calhoun on Mexico.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir.—Permit me to lay before your readers some wise words of one of the wisest statesmen of his day, Mr. Calhoun. They are very pertinent now that a second war with Mexico is being feared. I quote from a speech in the Senate of February 24, 1847, in reply to Mr. Benton. The Mexican War had begun, and Calhoun says of it:

"Every measure towards the accomplishment of annexation of Texas) had been consummated before the present administration (Mr. Polk's) came into power. No war followed, although the act of annexation had been completed more than a year before the rupture between us and Mexico took place, nor would war have followed at all, had we acted with ordinary prudence. That Mexico was chafed, chagrined, that she threatened much and blustered much; talked about war, and even the existence of hostilities, is all true. It was, however, but talk. The strong should ever permit the weak and arrogant to talk, to bluster and scold without taking offense; and if we had so acted, and exercised proper skill in the management of our affairs, Mexico and ourselves would, by this time, have quietly and peacefully settled all difficulties and been good friends. We have chosen to pursue the opposite course, and are at war."

"Every Senator knows that I was opposed to the war, but none knows but myself the depth of that opposition. With my conscientious objections of my character and consequences, it was impossible for me to vote for it. When, accordingly, I was deserted by every friend on this side of the House, including my then honorable colleague among the rest (Mr. McDuffie), I was not shaken in the least degree in reference to my course. On the passage of the act recognizing the war, I said to many of my friends that a deed had been done from which the country would not be able to recover for a long time, if ever, and added, it has dropped a curtain between the present and the future which to me is impenetrable, and for the first one since I have been 'n public life, I am unable to see the future."

Another thing may be learned from the above quotation, and that one at least of the great Southern leaders, and one of the greatest, earnestly opposed the Mexican War, which is now commonly said to have been brought on by the Southerners. Let us hope

that another great Southerner may, by heaven-born genius and guided by heaven-given wisdom, now avert so great a calamity as a war with a sister republic.

BERKELEY MINOR.
Staunton.

Restituting.

[Frank Monroe Beverly.] I know that you've made life sweeter. Done nothing my peace to mar. But vows are so easily broken, I'd rather not trust you too far.

Your words—how like music they charm me! The door to my heart unbar, Your eyes, meeting mine, how they kindle! I'd rather not trust you too far.

You men, so they say, prove inconstant. We women your victims are; We come to the life of the fallen—I'd rather not trust you too far.

I fear the love's false you're professing. That only pretending you are, That purity guides not your motive—I'd rather not trust you too far.

To grief, something whispers, you'd bring me. That my peace forever you'd mar; Then, though as my life I do love you, I'd rather not trust you too far.

Freeling.

QUERIES & ANSWERS

License Tax. Must I pay license tax to sell merchandise which I have on hand? Must I pay such tax for selling by "mail order"? G. E. C.

You would far better consult the commissioner of the revenue of your city. It is not at all sure that the local requirements here and there are identical, and we have no means of knowing the conditions in your home town.

Verses. As several correspondents have asked for the publication of the following verses, we give them here.

CHORUS TO "CARRY ME BACK TO OLD VIRGINIA."

Oh, carry me back, oh, carry me back, To Old Virginia's shore; Oh, carry me back, oh, carry me back, And bring me here no more. I'm growing old and feeble now, I can't work any more. Then carry me back, then carry me back, To Old Virginia's shore.

MRS. N. V. RANDOLPH.

Arnold Bennett. Is there a brand-new novel by Arnold Bennett? A. T. SMITH.

"The Regent" is announced, but not yet "out."

Pugilists.

Please give the weights for the different classes of prize fighters.

Bantam, 116; feather, 122; light, 133; welter, 145; middle, 158; heavy, over 158. The numbers of pounds given show the maximum weight for each class.

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Most business men prefer to receive checks from their customers in payment of accounts, as they are easier to handle and eliminate the necessity of making change.

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